



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS  
2000 NAVY PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20350-2000

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Ser DNS-36JP/19U102637

March 26, 2019

Sent via email to: [70869-75995652@requests.muckrock.com](mailto:70869-75995652@requests.muckrock.com)

Ms. Beryl Lipton  
MuckRock  
DEPT MR 70869 411A Highland  
Somerville, MA 02144

Dear Ms. Lipton:

This is in reference to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated March 25, 2019. Your request was received in our office on the same day, and assigned case number DON-NAVY-2019-005140.

Please be advised that records are not maintained in the form and format requested. The Department of the Navy (DON) FOIA program is decentralized, with individual FOIA Requester Service Centers managed and resourced by their respective components (e.g., The Naval Sea Systems Command FOIA office budget, staffing, etc. is managed by Naval Sea Systems Command). FOIA activities are centralized only with regard to policy and a limited degree of execution management. While individual activities may have specific FOIA budget or staffing records, it is important to note that many components handle FOIA activities as a collateral duty within a larger mission (e.g., security, records management, public affairs, legal).

In an effort to assist you, please be advised that, insofar as records responsive to your request are anticipated to exist in any centralized form, they are already made available to the public as a matter of routine.

Annual Report information for DoD is made publicly available as a matter of course by way of <http://foia.gov/>, with the ability to isolate information reported from DON specifically (as a subcomponent of the Department of Defense). This information is submitted on a Fiscal Year basis (1 October - 30 September), with the expectation that Fiscal Year 2018 Annual Report information will be populated in the near future. With regard to your request, the Annual Report information should include good faith estimates for the number of hours worked by FOIA personnel (in terms of man-years), as well as an

estimated cost of the FOIA program, aggregate fees collected, contact information for FOIA Activities, and the number of fee waivers granted.

DON budget materials are routinely disclosed on the website of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Financial Management and Comptroller). These materials are publicly posted with regard to each fiscal year at <https://www.secnave.navy.mil/fmc/fmb/>.

Finally, extensive information regarding the processing of individual requests is made publicly available via <https://foiaonline.gov>. This website includes extensive tools for members of the public to research and derive reports from the information made public by the participating agencies. Please be advised, however, that FOIAonline is currently in the process of data migration, and not all information may be available at this time.

If you are seeking records as described in your initial request at the individual FOIA activity level, please resubmit your request directly to the FOIA activity in question, stating that you are seeking records regarding that individual activity, as opposed to records concerning the entirety of DON FOIA.

Because no records were located, under 32 CFR §701.12(a), you may appeal this determination by writing to:

Office of the Judge Advocate General  
1322 Patterson Ave SE Ste 3000  
Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5066

Your appeal must be received within ninety calendar days from the date of this letter. A copy of your initial request and this letter must accompany the appeal. The appeal should be marked "FREEDOM OF INFORMATION APPEAL" both on the envelope and the face of the letter. In order to expedite the appellate process and ensure full consideration of your appeal, your appeal should contain a brief statement of the reasons you believe this initial decision to be in error.

In this instance, the fees associated with processing your request were below the minimum threshold and have not been assessed. Please be advised, however, that fees, fee categories, and fee waivers are determined on a case-by-case basis; a previous determination has no influence on future determinations.

For this determination, you have the right to seek dispute resolution services from either the DoD Navy Component FOIA Public Liaison, Mr. Chris Julka, at: [Christopher.a.julka@navy.mil](mailto:Christopher.a.julka@navy.mil), via phone: (703) 697-0031; or by contacting the Office of Government Information Services at: (<https://ogis.archives.gov/>), (202) 741-5770, [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov).

Questions regarding the action this office has taken to process your request may be directed to our FOIA Service Center at (202) 685-0412 or via email at [donfoia-pa@navy.mil](mailto:donfoia-pa@navy.mil).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. Strong', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

R. Strong  
Deputy Director,  
DON FOIA/PA Program Office